

CHAPTER 54-34.4 DIVISION OF TOURISM

54-34.4-01. Division of tourism - Director. The division of tourism is established to foster and promote tourism to, and within, the state and the full development of the state's tourism resources and to serve as a planning and coordinating agency for tourism-related programs of the state and the state's political subdivisions. The director shall supervise and control the division of tourism.

54-34.4-02. Duties of director. The director of the department of commerce division of tourism, within the limits of legislative appropriations, shall:

1. Implement the state's tourism policy;
2. Prepare and update annually a tourism master plan for the development of tourism in the state which identifies the state's tourism resources, estimates the impact of tourism on the state's economy, and proposes a five-year plan for activities of the division;
3. Measure and forecast visitor volume, receipts, and related social and economic impacts;
4. Work with the private sector and local, state, and federal agencies to develop the state's tourism-related infrastructure, facilities, services, and attractions, including the state's highways and parks;
5. Organize and coordinate programs designed to promote tourism to, and within, the state through various means. Those means may include:
 - a. Display advertising in magazines and newspapers;
 - b. Advertising on radio and television or other advertising media;
 - c. Publishing pamphlets, brochures, and other graphic and pictorial materials; and
 - d. Aiding and assisting representatives of the media to ensure greater coverage of the state's visitor attractions;
6. Participate in travel shows;
7. Supervise and administer visitor information centers that receive funding from the state;
8. Develop opportunities for professional and technical education and training in the visitor industry;
9. Foster an understanding among the state's residents of the economic importance to the state of hospitality and tourism;
10. Cooperate with local, state, and federal agencies and organizations and the private sector for the promotion and development of tourism to, and within, the state;
11. Provide advice and technical assistance to local, public, and private tourism organizations in promoting and developing tourism; and
12. Monitor the policies and programs of state agencies that significantly affect the visitor industry, notify those agencies of the effects of their actions on travel to, and

within the state, and if necessary recommend programs or policy changes to those agencies.

54-34.4-03. State tourism policy.

1. The legislative assembly declares that:
 - a. This state is endowed with scenic beauty, historical sites, cultural resources, local festivals, attractions, recreational facilities, and a population whose ethnic diversity and traditions are attractive to visitors;
 - b. These human and physical resources should be preserved and nurtured, not only because they are appreciated by other Americans and by visitors from other lands, but because they are valued by the state's residents;
 - c. Tourism contributes to economic well-being by creating job opportunities, generating revenues for local businesses, and creating new wealth in the economy;
 - d. Tourism is an educational and informational medium for personal growth which informs residents about their state's geography and history, their political institutions, their cultural resources, their environment, and about each other;
 - e. Tourism instills state pride and a sense of common interest among the state's residents;
 - f. Tourism enhances the quality of life and well-being of the state's residents by affording opportunities for recreation, new experiences, and relief from job stress;
 - g. Tourism promotes international understanding and good will, and contributes to intercultural appreciation;
 - h. Tourism engenders appreciation of the state's cultural, architectural, technological, agricultural, and industrial achievements;
 - i. The development and promotion of tourism to and within the state is in the interest of the people of this state;
 - j. Tourism should develop in an orderly manner in order to provide the maximum benefit to the state and its residents;
 - k. The development of a strong and competitive state visitor industry depends upon the availability of trained personnel, necessary infrastructure, and a receptive climate for tourism investment; and
 - l. A comprehensive tourism policy is essential if tourism in the state is to grow in an orderly manner.
2. The legislative assembly declares it is the policy of this state to:
 - a. Encourage the orderly growth and development of tourism to, and within, the state;
 - b. Promote the availability of public tourism training to increase the skills and productivity of the tourism labor force and to broaden access to employment opportunities and the visitor industry;
 - c. Encourage a healthy competitiveness in the visitor industry;

- d. Promote the availability of reliable public highways and transport services between the state's principal tourism destinations and the main tourism generating markets;
- e. Expand off-season tourism to the state and thereby increase the productivity of the accommodation sector and reduce seasonal layoffs within the visitor and visitor-related industries;
- f. Promote a sense of history in the state's young people by encouraging family visits to state historic sites, and promoting the preservation and restoration of historic sites, trails, buildings, and districts;
- g. Promote the mental, emotional, and physical well-being of the American people by encouraging outdoor recreational activities within the state;
- h. Encourage the talents and strengthen the economic independence of the state's residents by encouraging the preservation of traditional craft skills, the production of handicrafts and native and folk art by private artisans and crafts people, and the holding of craft demonstrations;
- i. Encourage an optimum of satisfaction and high quality service to visitors;
- j. Promote a tourist environment that respects our visitors' rights as consumers;
- k. Afford visitors and residents the best possible conditions of public sanitation;
- l. Facilitate tourism to, and within, the state by developing an essential tourism infrastructure, providing investment incentives to tourism businesses, and encouraging city and county officials to plan for tourism needs and capitalize on local tourism resources;
- m. Promote a better understanding among the state's residents of the social and economic importance of tourism through appropriate formal and informal learning experiences about tourism, and foster among all citizens the capacity for courtesy to visitors;
- n. Encourage the holding of conventions, trade shows, and expositions throughout the state;
- o. Promote tourism in a manner that fosters visitors' understanding and respect for native and religious beliefs, customs, and ethnic traditions of the state's residents;
- p. Monitor tourist impact on the basic human rights of the state's residents and ensure equal access by visitors and residents to public recreational resources;
- q. Take measures to protect wildlife and natural resources in the preservation of geological, archaeological, and cultural treasures in tourist areas;
- r. Encourage, assist, and coordinate when possible the tourism activities of local and area promotional organizations; and
- s. Ensure that the tourism interest of the state is considered fully by state agencies and the legislative assembly in their deliberations; and harmonize to the maximum extent possible, all state activities in support of tourism with the needs of the general public, the political subdivisions of the state, and the visitor industry.

54-34.4-04. North Dakota motion picture development office - Advisory board. The North Dakota motion picture development office is a part of the department of commerce division of tourism. The office shall promote North Dakota as a location for shooting films, television shows, documentaries, and commercials and shall provide technical expertise to persons desiring to use the state as a filming location. The director of the department of commerce division of tourism may appoint staff necessary to fulfill the functions and duties of the office and may appoint an advisory board of no more than ten members to assist in advising the office and to provide technical expertise to offer prospective film companies seeking locations and advice. The board shall serve without compensation, except reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses at the same rate as allowed other state officers to be paid from funds available to the office within the limits of legislative appropriations.

54-34.4-05. Copyright and trademark. The director of the department of commerce division of tourism may obtain copyright or trademark protection for anything that may be used to promote the policies listed in section 54-34.4-03. The director may license and charge a fee for photographs and logos and anything with copyright or trademark protection.